

Amendments to the Specification:

Please amend the specification as follows:

Please insert the following header at page 1, line 3:

FIELD OF THE INVENTION

Please insert the following header at page 1, line 6:

BACKGROUND OF THE INVENTION

Please insert the following header at page 3, line 18:

SUMMARY OF THE INVENTION

Please insert the following header at page 8, line 14:

BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF THE DRAWINGS

Please insert the following header at page 8, line 30:

DETAILED DESCRIPTION OF THE EMBODIMENTS

Please replace the first paragraph at page 11, with the following rewritten paragraph:

Referring to Figure 3 of the drawings that follow, there is shown a schematic representation of a digital certificate 32 having a plurality of credential attributes 34A-34N with associated credential attribute properties ~~36A-36RM~~ 36A-36R. The certificate 32 is signed, as indicated at 38. Digital certificate 32 corresponds to digital certificate 2 of Figure 1, except that in digital certificate 32 there is also a plurality of corresponding credential functions 40A-40M. A trust function is indicated at 42 and an external data source at 44.

Please replace the third paragraph at page 11, with the following rewritten paragraph:

Each function 40A-40M is capable of modifying a respective credential attribute property ~~36A-36RM~~ 36A-36R to determine a respective credential attribute property value obtaining external data as required as indicated at 44.